

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 17984

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS' SPEECH ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN DECEMBER 22 SPEECH MARKING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFP, PRESIDENT MARCOS PRAISED MILITARY'S CONTRIBUTION TO NEW SOCIETY AND ANNOUNCED SIGNIFICANT MILITARY PAY RAISE. STRESSING FAVORITE THEME OF SELF-RELIANCE, MARCOS SAID THAT DESPITE OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR MINDANAO SECESSION MOVEMENT, GOP DID NOT INVOKE PROVISIONS OF MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH US. THIS UNDERScoreD GOP'S DESIRE NOT TO INVOLVE FOREIGN POWER IN DEFENDING PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY. PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS DETERMINED TO ACCELERATE STEPS TO PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT BUT WOULD MAKE HASTE SLOWLY AND POINTEDLY WARNED HIS CRITICS END OF "CRISIS GOVERNMENT" WOULD NOT COME SOONER BY "RESURRECTING" PROBLEMS WHICH PROMPTED DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW. MARCOS' LAVISH PRAISE OF MILITARY'S ROLE IN NEW SOCIETY, SIGNIFICANT PAY INCREASES AND ABSENCE OF EVEN VAGUE REFERENCE TO MILITARY PURGE CAN ONLY REINFORCE IMPRESSION MILITARY'S POWER INCREASING IN NEW SOCIETY. SPEECH ALSO SUGGESTS MARCOS MAY BE TRYING TO MEND FENCES DAMAGED AS RESULT

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OF ABORTIVE PURGE. END SUMMARY.

1. ROLE OF AFP. PRESIDENT MARCOS MADE MAJOR ADDRESS ENTITLED "THE ETHIC OF SELF-RELIANCE" AT 40TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES FOR ARMED FORCES OF THE HILIPPINES (AFP) DECEMBER 22. MARCOS PAID LAVISH TRIBUTE TO AFP WHICH HE SAID "CARRIED THE BURDEN DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS," AND IS VIGILANT TO ENSURE "RETURN TO NORMALCY" IS NOT ENDANGERED BY FORCES WHO MISTAKENLY ASSUME THIS MEANS WEAKENING OF GOVERNMENT'S WILL.

2. SELF-RELIANCE, MINDANAO AND THE MDA. STRESSING THEME OF SELF-RELIANCE, MARCOS SAID THAT DESPITE FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM SECESSION MOVEMENT, GOP REFUSED INVOKE PROVISIONS OF MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT. THIS UNDERSCORED GOP'S DESIRE NOT TO INVOLVE FOREIGN POWER IN DEFENDING ITS OWN SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. MARCOS EMPHASIZED THIS DID NOT IMPLY LACK OF FAITH IN "ENFORCEABILITY" OF DEFENSE PACT BUT RATHER COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY OF AFP TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM. ELABORATING ON SELF-RELIANCE THEME, MARCOS ADVERTED TO PASSAGES IN TOAST AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE DURING FORD VISIT WHICH HE SAID UNDERSCORED GOP'S DESIRE TO BE SELF-RELIANT. MARCOS SAID: "WE, THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, WILL NOT BE A PEOPLE WHOSE MINDS AND WHOSE BODIES ARE FLACCID FROM COTINUED DEPENDENCE. WE MUST NOW DEPEND ON OURSELVES AND OURSELVES ALONG."

3. PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT SAID WHILE DETERMINED TO "ACCELERATE STEPS" TO PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT, HE WOULD BE GUIDED BY CARE AND PRUDENCE, NOT BY HASTE. MARCOS NOTED THAT THE AFP "HAVE PATIENTLY TOLERATED" VOICES OF THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE REASON TO SUPPORT THE NEW SOCIETY AND WHO ARE CLAIMING MARTIAL LAW IS NO LONGER NECESSARY. HE SAID THIS OPPOSITIONIST POINT OF VIEW, WHICH OFTEN TAKES FORM OF "POLITICAL AGITATION" WILL NOT HASTEN END OF MARTIAL LAW AND EQUATED "AGITATION" WITH PROBLEMS THAT OCCASIONED DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW.

4. PAY RAISE. AT CONCLUSION SPEECH, MARCOS SIGNED  
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PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ESTABLISHING NEW RATES OF MONTHLY BASE PAY FOR OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE AFP. HE DETAILED INCREASES FROM LOWEST RANK TO MAJOR, BUT THEN SAID THEE WAS "CORRESPONDINGLY DECREASING INCREASE IN THE HIGHER RANKS." PRESIDENT TERMED PAY RAISE "SMALL TOKEN OF THE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION" THE ENTIRE FILIPINO PEOPLE FEEL TOWARD AFP. IN CASE OF GENERAL OFFICERS (WHOM MARCOS CHOSE NOT TO MENTION)

ACTUAL BASE PAY RAISE RANGES FROM 75 TO 82 PERCENT WITH LONGEVITY PAY INCREASED ALMOST 100 PERCENT. THUS IN CERTAIN CASES GENERAL OFFICERS' PAY COULD BE HIGHER THAN RECENTLY ANNOUNCED SCALE FOR CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS. FOR DETAILS ON PAY RAISE IN UPPER RANKS SEE DAO MESSAGE R100741Z DEC 75. FYI. WE UNDERSTAND MARCOS REDUCED AFP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENLISTED PAY INCREASES AND INCREASED AFP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICER PAY RAISES. HE SPOKE ONLY OF BASE PAY WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 2/3 OF GROSS PAY AND FAILED TO MENTION INCREASE IN LONGEVITY AND ALLOWANCES. END FYI.

COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE THEME IS NOT NEW BUT DECISION TO SURFACE THE QUESTION OF APPLICABILITY MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO SOUTHERN SECESSION PROBLEM MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED AS OBLIQUE REPLY TO A.P.'S ZEITLIN, WHO CAUSED GREAT UNHAPPINESS AT MALACANANG WHEN HE SUGGESTED MARCOS FAILED TO OBTAIN AUTOMATIC RETALIATION CLAUSE IN MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT DURING FORD VISIT. MARCOS WAS IN EFFECT SAYING WE DON'T NEED IT. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT HE IS PROCEEDING TOWARD PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IS OLD REFRAIN BUT HIS CRITICISM OF OPPOSITION (SALONGA, DIOKNO ET AL) WAS EXCEPTIONALLY POINTED, AND MAY IN PART BE RESULT OF THEIR SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO HAVE HIM MODIFY PD 823 (TOTAL STRIKE BAN). MARCOS WAS TELLING THEM THE MORE YOU COMPLAIN, THE LONGER MARTIAL LAW WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT, AN INGENIOUS BUT DISINGENUOUS ARGUMENT. PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF MARCOS' SPEECH WAS HIS OBVIOUS EFFORT TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND NEW SOCIETY WITH THE AFP. HE HAS TAKEN THIS LINE BEFORE, ESPECIALLY AT MILITARY CEREMONIES, BUT HIS DEC-  
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EMBER 22 ADDRESS SEEMS SOMEWHAT MORE HEARTFELT, ESPECIALLY WHEN FOLLOWED UP BY LAVISH MILITARY PAY RAISE. MARCOS MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MEND FENCES WITH THE MILITARY, MANY OF WHOM WERE IRRITATED BY PROSPECT OF MILITARY PURGE ABOUT WHICH MARCOS SAID NOT A WORD. EXPANDING ROLE MILITARY PLAYS IN NEW SOCIETY IS WELL-KNOWN. MARCOS APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THIS REALITY IS IN HIS INTEREST, AT LEAST FOR NOW. SULLIVAN

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